

# Archie Duncan (actor)

**Archie Duncan** (26 May 1914 – 24 July 1979) was a Scottish actor born in Glasgow.<sup>[1]</sup>

Duncan's father was a regimental sergeant major in the army and his mother was a postmistress. He attended Glasgow's Govan High School and worked as a welder in Glasgow shipyards for a decade.<sup>[2]</sup>

He began his career in repertory theatre and West End plays. His professional acting debut was in *Juno and the Paycock* in May 1944 at the Alhambra Theatre, Glasgow.<sup>[2]</sup>

Although he appeared in over 50 television series and movie roles, he is best remembered for Inspector Lestrade in the 1954 series *Sherlock Holmes*<sup>[3]:960</sup> and Little John in *The Adventures of Robin Hood*<sup>[3]</sup> from 1955 to 1959.

Duncan was replaced in the Little John role by Rufus Cruikshank for 13 episodes after Duncan was injured when a horse bolted toward spectators, mostly children, watching the location filming of the episode "Checkmate" on 20 April 1955. He grabbed the bridle, stopping the horse, but the cart it was pulling ran over him causing a fractured kneecap and cuts and bruises. He received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct<sup>[4]</sup> and £1,360 in damages from Sapphire films.<sup>[2]</sup>

He also played the ditch digger in the 1969 film *Ring of Bright Water* who dispatched the star otter Mij with his spade, towards the end.<sup>[5]</sup>

Archie Duncan



Richard Greene (left) and Archie Duncan in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1958)

<b>Born</b>	26 May 1914 Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
<b>Died</b>	24 July 1979 (aged 65) London, England
<b>Occupation</b>	Actor
<b>Years active</b>	1948–1975

On 24 July 1979, aged 65, Duncan died at his [London](#) home.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Filmography

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Year	Title	Role	Notes
1948	<i>Counterblast</i>	Dr. McKegney	Uncredited
1949	<i>Operation Diamond</i>	McPherson	
1949	<i>Floodtide</i>	Charlie Campbell	
1949	<i>The Bad Lord Byron</i>	John Murray	
1950	<i>The Gorbals Story</i>	Bull	
1950	<i>The Elusive Pimpernel</i>	Man in bath	
1951	<i>Happy Go Lovely</i>	Police Inspector	Uncredited
1951	<i>Flesh and Blood</i>	Sergeant	
1951	<i>Circle of Danger</i>	Angus	Uncredited
1951	<i>The Lavender Hill Mob</i>	Chief Cashier	Uncredited
1951	<i>Green Grow the Rushes</i>	Constable Pettigrew	
1952	<i>The Last Page</i>	Police Constable	Uncredited
1952	<i>The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men</i>	Red Gill	
1952	<i>Home at Seven</i>	Station Sergeant	Uncredited
1952	<i>Castle in the Air</i>	Constable	
1952	<i>You're Only Young Twice</i>		
1952	<i>The Brave Don't Cry</i>	Walter Hardie	
1952	<i>Hot Ice</i>	Wilson	
1953	<i>Street Corner</i>	Chief Inspector	Uncredited
1953	<i>Laxdale Hall</i>	Police Sergeant	
1953	<i>Johnny on the Run</i>	The Crofter	
1953	<i>Twice Upon a Time</i>	Doorman	
1953	<i>Counterspy</i>	Jim Fenton	
1953	<i>The Master of Ballantrae</i>	Messenger	Uncredited
1953	<i>Rob Roy, the Highland Rogue</i>	Dugal MacGregor	
1954	<i>Trouble in the Glen</i>	Nolly Dukes	
1956	<i>X the Unknown</i>	Sgt. Yeardye	Uncredited
1957	<i>The Devil's Pass</i>	George Jolly	
1957	<i>Saint Joan</i>	Robert de Baudricourt	
1958	<i>Harry Black</i>	Woolsey	
1959	<i>John Paul Jones</i>	Duncan MacBean	
1960	<i>The Boy and the Pirates</i>	Scoggins	
1960	<i>Tess of the Storm Country</i>	Hamish MacLean	

1961	<u>Very Important Person</u>	Scottish Captain	Uncredited
1961	<u>What a Whopper</u>	Macdonald	
1962	<u>Postman's Knock</u>	Inspector	
1963	<u>The Mouse on the Moon</u>	USAF General	
1963	<u>Lancelot and Guinevere</u>	Sir Lamorak	
1964	<u>The Horror of It All</u>	Muldoon Marley	
1967	<u>The Man Outside</u>	Supt. Barnes	
1969	<u>Ring of Bright Water</u>	Roadmender	
1975	<u>The Wilby Conspiracy</u>	Gordon	(final film role)

## References

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1. "Archie Duncan Filmography" (<http://www.bfi.org.uk/films-tv-people/4ce2ba59cbf5b>). British Film Institute.
2. Aaker, Everett (2011). *Encyclopedia of Early Television Crime Fighters: All Regular Cast Members in American Crime and Mystery Series, 1948-1959*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co. pp. 204–206. **ISBN 978-0-7864-6409-8**.
3. Terrace, Vincent (2011). *Encyclopedia of Television Shows, 1925 through 2010* (2nd ed.). Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers. p. 16. **ISBN 978-0-7864-6477-7**.
4. "No. 40546" (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/40546/supplement/4305>). *The London Gazette* (Supplement). 22 July 1955. p. 4305.
5. "Ring of Bright Water - BBC Two" (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0077ss0>). BBC.

## External links

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- Archie Duncan (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0241902/>) at [IMDb](#)

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